

# College credits, Internet access coming via cable

## Course on cultural geography starts Tuesday

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WATSONVILLE — Internet access via cable, terms and conditions of a draft contract between the city and Sonic Cable Television and funding were just some of the problems the Watsonville Cable TV Committee tackled during its meeting with Assistant City Manager Gary Smith Wednesday night.

The committee hopes to expand its cable access program, currently operating out of Watsonville High School, where it produces eight hours of community educational programming every Tuesday and Thursday from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Channel 19.

Student interns working with committee chairman John Burdick provide the manpower, but an agreement must be reached with Sonic for the project to expand. Burdick is also the director of the video academy at Watsonville High School. Once the partnership is formed, Watsonville could have over 80 channels within a year.

In preparing a draft agreement between the city and Sonic, to be presented to the city council soon, the committee included a provision for future Internet access which could be offered in conjunction with the service. Smith said one problem with spelling out details of future services is the changing nature of Internet technology.

"We need to strengthen the wording on Internet access," Smith said. "We don't want to mandate Internet access, but if the people want it, we need to include it in the franchise agreement."

Present programming is supplied by the Director of Cabrillo College's Watsonville Center, Rachel Mayo, who is providing three levels of Spanish instruction. A course on cultural

Programming is every Tuesday and Thursday from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Channel 19.

geography will start Tuesday, Mayo said, "The newest course is a study of people — where they are on the globe as opposed to mountains, oceans and other land masses," she said.

Mayo said that the programming is available to anybody who cares to tune in, but students who register with the school can earn college credits as well. For more information call



**Mayo**

Cabrillo College at 479-5100. According to the proposed agreement, city staff members will be trained to use television equipment in order to televise city council and water board meetings. In addition to city council meetings, the station hopes to eventually telecast school and water board meetings. The station will also provide live camera feeds from events such as parades, demonstrations, and festivals.

Five percent of the gross cable television fees collected for services by Sonic will fund the channel. If the city agrees to take a more active role in the project and supplement the station with additional moneys, services could be greatly expanded.

The next meeting of the Watsonville Cable Committee will be September 10, at 5:30 p.m. Burdick said the committee would welcome more input and involvement from the public.

"Interns are putting in a lot of hours, but we need to turn this into a real organization," Burdick said. "We're talking about running two 24 hour TV channels and we're barely up to eight hours each week."



**Burdick**